The Great Third Term Fight

BY FREDERIC J. HASKIN-

strangely chough, the uncusiness about this particular convention is based upon a feat, entirely new in mational politics—the feat that the convention will be stampeded by a third-term boom. That Mr. Rocsevelt has been positive in his affirmations that he would not necent the nomination has not quieted the fears the momination has not quieted the fears. o nonman his opponents, nor has it extinguished a hopes of his more ardent supporters. Only twice before has there been any Only twice before has there been any serious talk of a third term for a President. The first time a third term boom carted over the country it was nipped in the bad by the personal opnosition of the intended beneficiary, George Washington. The first president delined to take a third term of office, and in so doing he enunciated a principle which has ever since bound the

8 Grant The great solder was unan-incesty nominated for president by the Republican party in 1868 and in 1872, and in both instances was elected by a everwhelming majority. His second administration was far from being sat-infactory to all the people and was dis-infactory to all the people and was disof hy several ugly scandals Gen-Grant was not at fault, but the had to bear the burden of the es of his unworthy subordinates, nsult was that the Republicans their majority in the lower house agress, and in 1876 came so nearly sig the presidency that it required thods to count enough votes to land

methods to count enough votes to land their candidate.

But General Graut did not share in the partial downfall of the party, and despite the bitter campaign against him raged by personal enemies, he remained the people's hero. He was popular at the North as the great military leader the had led the Union forces to victory in the Civil war. The South forgot many of the imputities of reconstruction in the memory of Grant's magnanimity at Appomatiox. General Grant made a trip around the world, which was a triamphal procession through all the nations. When he returned on the eve of When he returned on the eve of sampaign in 1880 he was welcomed other returning American had

Although the country generally thinks is known pretty well what the Repaberan national convention which meets a Chicago today will do, there are politicans who will not breathe easily until the ching is all over. The slip that is the ching is all over. The slip that is the ching is always considered in politics, and lip is particular convention is based upon feat, entirely new in maticual politics, the fear that the convention will be defeated. The politicians were not at all pleased, for there were many the convention will be defeated. The politicians were not at all pleased, for the bee with vanishing reluctance and finally consented to stand for the nomination. At the head of the movement was one of the ablest politicians the country has ever produced.—Roscoe Conkling of New York. The third term boom for the great popular hero was caught up with great enthusiasm by the people generally, and for a while it was believed that Grint could not be defeated. The politicians were not at all pleased. For there were many the produced will be defeated. The politicians were not at all pleased.

at all picased, for there were many other candidates. In a very little while it was Grant against the field—the third term boom against traditions of Wash-ington and skill of the wire pullers. The issue was fought out at the Re-publican actional convention in Chicapublican national convention in Chicago in June, 1880. That was the greatest battle in the history of political conventions in this country, either Republican or Democratic. It was held twen try years after the Chicago convention which named Lincoln, twenty-eight years before the Chicago convention which meets today. It may be taken as marking the halfway post of the Republican march of triumph through American history. That the bitterness of that fight and the enmities there aroused did not prevent the party from presenting a united front at the election is a proof that Republican discipline is true and faithful to meet any test. ventions in this country, either Repub-

and in so doing be enductated a publican march of triumph through applied which has ever since bound the American people, the principle that two terms is chough for a chief executive. The two-term limitation for a long time was considered to be as inviolable as if it were a part of the constitution, and many Americans actually believed that it mas written law.

Only one man who had served two terms as president made an effort to obtain a third term. He was General U. S. Grant. The great soldier was unanimously nominated for president by the Republican party in 1868 and in 1872, and in both instances was elected by an everwhelming majority. His second deministration was far from being sat-

the namination of Grant at whatever cost.

Blaine was the grent hope of the anti-third-termers. He had led the party in the national House of Representatives at a time when a great leader was sorely needed. Four years before be had struggled for the nomination for president, to be defeated by an Ohio durk horse, Rutherford B. Haves. Indeed, Conkling was engineering the Grant boom as the only means of defeating Blaine, whom he hated with all the strength of his imperious soul.

Four years before Colonel Robert G. Ingersoll had nominated Blaine in the famous "plumed knight" speech, which still stands at the head of the great convention speeches. This time another great speech was made, one that ranks second only to Ingersoll's. was Conkling's speech nominating Grant

That was the beginning of a powerful appeal to the country that was grateful to Grant for his services in saving the

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effective. But Conkling could not stop with an appeal for his own candidate. His hatred of Blaine was so great that it whelmed his better judgment and he concluded the speech with a few sentences that set the teeth of every Blaine man in the country. Conkling's sneers were more potent for injury to his cause than his eloquence of advocacy could overcome.

The balloting began. On the first test Grant had 304 votes and Blaine 284, while 378 votes were required to nominate. After the two leaders the strongest candidate in the field was John Sherman of Ohio, He had ninety three votes on the first ballot, and in-creased to 117 on the thirty-second bal-lot. Grant's rose to 313 at one time, but never fell below 306 after the first ballot.

fore the convention by James A. Gar-field. Garfield knew from the first that Sherman could not win; he was con-Sherman could not win, he was con-vinced that none of the prominent can-didutes could defeat Grant. He saw the prize within his own grasp and well did he play his game. His speech nominating Sherman was a plea for peace, for peace and harmony. What do we want? he asked, suggesting that the reply be ''peace.'' But a delegate shouted, ''We want Garfield!'' After the first ballot Garfield received one or two votes on each ballot, and several times waves of Garfield enthusiasm swept over the convention.

On the thirty-fourth ballot the Wisconsin delegates cast sixteen votes for Garfield, giving him a total of seventeen. When the vote was announced Garfield arose and made a point of order that the result as announced was erroneous, because it contained votes cast for him, whose name was not be-fore the convention. As he had not made the point on thirty-two previous ballots is which he had received votes, it is not to be supposed that he was hagrined when the chairman decided that the point was not well taken. That began the stampede and on the thirty-sixth ballot Garfield was nominated. But the "immortal 306" were still standing true by the colors of General Grant.

Grant.

Each one of the 305 delegates who stayed by Grant all through the balloting was given a bronze medal expressing the appreciation of the support of the great popular hero. But when Conkling failed to win in the great fight wise men were heard to say: "The American people will never consider giving any president a third term Wash. ing any president a third term. Wash-ington declined it and established a tradition. If that tradition is so strong that a popular war hero like General Grant cannot break it down, it is strong enough to stand forever.'' Since that time wise men have referred to the de-feat of Grant for a third term as the endorsement by the American people of the Washington principle that two terms

. . . But the third term idea was not dead. Mr. Reosevelt had served over three years as president by succession, when he was elected to a full term of four years. On the night of the election he gave out a statement that he would not be a candidate for re-election. It was not taken seriously by many people and three years later there was a third term beam of considerably proportions. The boom of considerably proportions. The fact that Roosevelt had been elected but once was relied upon to case the conscience of those people to whom the Washington tradition meant something. The phrase "second elective term" was

Long silence from the White house caused men to believe that the president ment. Then came the discovery of the subterranean Cortelyon boom, the blowing up of an alleged "conspiracy" and the flat reiteration of the Rossovelt refusal to be a candidate. Even that did not stop the activity of some of the third terrous although a general came.

not stop the activity of some of the third termers, although a general campaign had to be abandoned.

It is passing strange, reviewing the history of the third term booms in this country, that the Republican leaders have approached this convention with the fear that it would re-nominate Mr. Roosevelt in spate of precedent, in spite of the third term bogie, in spite of himself. Everybody knews that he could loosevelt in spite of precedent, in oping of the third term bogie, in spite of himself. Everybody knows that he could have had it if he wished, which knowledge sets aside the deliverances handed down by the wise men when Grant was defeated in 1880. (Copyright, 1908, by Frederic J. Haskin.)

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Fate Undecided.

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Wake Up, I. O. O. F.

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American District **Judicial Convention**

Salt Lake City. Utah, June 12, 1908.

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West Jordan
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Hunter and Granger, Garfield and
Pleasant Green
Brighton

Forest Dale
Farmers 4
Summit county 5
Tocele county 9
Primaries for the election of delegates from Salt Lake county to the above convention will be held in the various voting districts on Thursday, June 25, at 8 o clock p. m., place to be hereafter designated.

J. E. M'GINTY Chairman

J. E. M'GINTY, Chairman,
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